

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
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3 An improved surgical retraction apparatus (and corresponding method of
4 operation) includes a plurality of rigid retraction members disposed about a central axis
5 that move radially with respect to the central axis between a closed state and an open
6 state. In the closed state, the retraction members form a central opening that is adapted to
7 closely fit around the tubular section of a surgical port device. In the illustrative
8 embodiments, a planetary gear train, cable assemblies and lever arms may be used to
9 control radial movement of the retraction members with respect to the central axis.